

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 are currently pending. Claim 3 is amended herein. Support for the amendment is at least found at pages 15-18 and Figs. 16-18 of the specification.

Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Durham for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of November 12, 2008. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated in the remarks below.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,179,596 to *Wordingham*.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as now presented is not anticipated by *Wordingham* as the reference does not teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention either expressly or inherently. Specifically, *Wordingham* at least fails to disclose a wall as required by claim 3.

As discussed during the interview, the current rejection maintains that the wall is not a part of the claim language of previously presented claim 3 but is only descriptive functional language. In response thereto, applicants have clarified the language of claim 3 so as to clearly require a combination wall and cloths hanger device, for example as depicted in the detailed embodiment illustrated in Figs. 16 and 17.

As agreed during the interview, the amendment of claim 3 clearly includes the wall so as to overcome the rejection based on Wordingham. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wordingham* (U.S. Patent 1,179,596) in view of *Kolton et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,501,378).

Applicants respectfully submit that since the rejection depends on that of claim 3, by addressing the rejection of claim 3, as detailed above, the rejection of claim 5 should likewise be considered addressed by nature of its dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/575,168

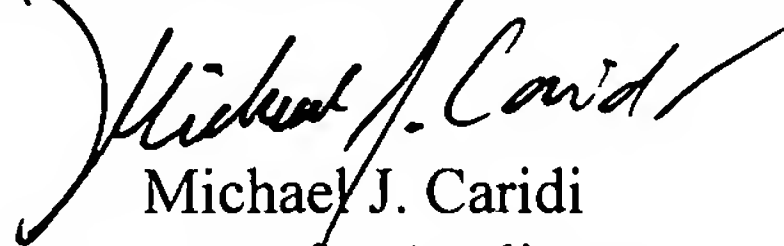
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Attorney Docket No.: 062228

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Caridi", is written over the printed name.

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